with the use of the drug. The matter was then examined in consultation with experts in India and it was opined by the experts that lactic acidosis reported in the West is not common in Indian Population and the drug was effective as an oral anti-diabetic drug. The drug remained available in Spain, Italy, Mexico and some other parts of Europe and continued to be marketed in India also.

Subsequently, the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) on reconsideration of the matter opined that as large number of oral drugs for treatment of diabetes are now available in the country, the continued marketing of Phenformin may be stopped.

The drug Phenformin has, therefore, been prohibited for manufacture and sale in the country with effect from 1st October, 2003 *vide* Gazette Notification GSR 780 (E) dated 01.10.2003.

New Medical Course

573. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to introduce a three year medical course to build up a special cadre of doctors capable and willing to serve in the villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the view points of the various State Governments have been elicited with regard thereto and if so, their reaction in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Presently there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Appointment of Principal at Vardhman Mahavir Medical College

574. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision to appoint a full time regular Principal at Vardhman Mahavir Medical College, Delhi;

(b) whether the Principal would be from teaching sub-cadre of CHS; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Dr. R. Sambasiva Rao, Addl. DG Directorate General of Health Services who is from teaching subcadre of CHS has been given charge of Principal of Vardhman Mahavir Medical College, New Delhi with effect from 13.11.2003 in addition to his own duties in Directorate General of Health Services.

Loss Making Heavy Industries

†575. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 49 heavy industries are being run in the public sector;

(b) if so, the number of such industries which are incurring losses for the last several years;

(c) the loss as on the 31st March, 2003;

(d) the amount invested in the loss making industries;

(e) whether Government have formulated any scheme to disinvest the loss making industries; and

(f) if so, the details of the industries selected for disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) At present there are 48 Public Sector Enterprises under the Department of Heavy Industry. 9 PSEs have been closed and another 3 PSEs are not in operation. Out of the remaining 36 PSEs, 20 PSEs have been incurring loss during the last three years. The loss incurred by these PSEs is Rs. 1515 crore (provisional) during the year 2002-2003. The total amount invested in terms of equity in these loss making PSEs is Rs. 2061 crore as on 31–3–2002.

(e) and (f) Out of these 20 continuously loss making PSEs, the

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.